

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06516 211920Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

OES-02 USIA-01 L-01 /035 W

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R 211443Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6516

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: A) ANKARA 5866; B) IZMIR 201; C) IZMIR 202

THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY IN THE POPPY  
CONTROL PROGRAM:

A. CONTROL PROGRAM. DURING TRIPS TO AFYON ON AUGUST 1  
AND TO KUTAHYA, USAK AND AFYON AUGUST 14-15, MISSION OFFICERS  
NOTED THAT SALE OF POPPY CAPSULES TO SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO)  
WAS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN NEXT FEW  
WEEKS. CONVERSATIONS WITH FARMERS DURING HARVEST AND WITH  
TMO OFFICIALS AND FARMERS AT BUYING STATIONS INDICATED HIGH  
DEGREE OF FARMER UNDERSTANDING OF TMO HARVESTING INSTRUCTIONS.  
NEAR TOP PRICES ARE BEING PAID BY TMO. FARMERS EXPRESSED  
SATISFACTION WITH PRICES. ONLY COMPLAINTS HEARD CONCERNED  
REQUIREMENT TO PRESENT TO TMO CAPSULES WHICH HAVE BEEN  
SLICED IN HALF TO REMOVE SEEDS. THIS METHOD IS MORE TIME  
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 06516 211920Z

AND LABOR-CONSUMING THAN TRADITIONAL METHODS. UNDER

PRESENT METHOD CAPSULES ARE BULKY TO TRANSPORT. BULKINESS OF CAPSULES ALSO CAUSING SOME STORAGE PROBLEMS FOR TMO THOUGH TMO IS RENTING EXTRA SPACE WHEN ITS OWN IS INADEQUATE. BUYING STATIONS HAVE PERMISSION TO CRUSH CAPSULES BUT FACILITIES ARE LIMITED.

B. POPPY YIELD. USAID OFFICER WAS TOLD BY TMO CAPSULE BUYERS AUGUST 14-15 THAT YIELDS PER DECARE ARE AVERAGING FROM 100 KILOS IN KUTAHYA TO LESS THAN 80 KILOS IN AFYON. SIMILAR ESTIMATES WERE GIVEN TO MISSION OFFICERS BY FARMERS DURING AUGUST 1 TRIP. A TOTAL YIELD OF BETWEEN 7,000 AND 8,000 METRIC TONS APPEARS REALISTIC.

C. GROWING AREA. GOT HAS YET TO MAKE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PERMITTED GROWING AREA AND TOTAL ALLOWED ACREAGE FOR 1975-1976 GROWING SEASON. REASON FOR DELAY IS UNKNOWN.

D. ALKALOID PLANT. GOT HAS MADE NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CONCERNING PROPOSED ALKALOID PLANT.

E. PRESS ACCOUNTS. ON AUGUST 9 POPULAR GUNAYDIN HAD A SHORT ARTICLE ON POPPY CAPSULE PURCHASES IN AFYON PROVINCE. THE ARTICLE QUOTED TMO SOURCES AS SAYING THAT CAPSULE PURCHASES WOULD CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST. THE PURCHASING PRICE WAS SAID TO PLEASE THE PRODUCERS.

ON AUGUST 19 LIBERAL MILLIYET CARRIED A STORY ASCRIBED TO THE ANKARA CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, MENTIONING UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE TO THE TURKISH CONTROL PROGRAM. AMERICAN "NARCOTICS BUREAU SOURCES" WERE SAID TO BE OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE CONTROL PROGRAM. A POPPY FARMER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, " WE HAVE NO NEED FOR AMERICAN WEAPONS. BUT WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT POPPY OIL."

GUNAYDIN REPORTED AUGUST 18 THAT TWO TURKISH LABORERS WHO WORKED IN DENMARK HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN USAK FOR SMUGGLING MORPHINE BASE. CONTRABAND WAS BEING CARRIED BY SUITCASE TO DEMARK. ONE OF THE LABORERS IN TURN IMPLICATED A THIRD TURKISH NATION

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 06516 211920Z

WHO RESIDED IN DENIZLI PROVINCE, AS THE SOURCE OF THE MORPHINE.

AUGUST 19 GUNAYDIN AND HURRIYET CARRIED DIFFERING ACCOUNTS OF THE ARREST OF A FACTORY OWNER IN DENIZLI. SOME 125 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE WERE UNCOVERED AT THE BIRLIK PAINT AND PRINTED SILK FACTORY IN DENIZLI AS THE RESULT OF INVESTIGATION BY THE IZMIR NARCOTICS BUREAU. WHILE THE GUNAYDIN ACCOUNT MAINTAINED THAT THE SUSPECT WAS ARRESTED

"WHILE SELLING" MORPHINE BASE TO POLICE AGENTS, THE HURRIYET ACCOUNT STATED THAT THE MORPHINE CACHE WAS DISCOVERED BY POLICE UNDERCOVER AGENTS WORKING IN THE FACTORY AS LABORERS.

F. POLICE EFFORTS. RECENT ARRESTS IN THREE SEPARATE CASES IN USAK AND DENIZLI (REFS B AND C) REPRESENT CONTINUING EFFORTS BY TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE TO COMBAT NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. IN BOTH CASES REPORTED IN REFTELS, SUSPECTS STATE THAT MORPHINE BASE WAS DERIVED FROM PRE-BAN OPIUM CROPS. MACOMBER

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## Message Attributes

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